(b) if so, what effective steps Government are going to take to stop exploitation of child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No specific case about children as old as five years being employed in the silk industry as bonded labour has been reported.

(b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed to the Schedule of the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws.

Government of India has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations to reduce the incidence of child labour in a particular district through the Scheme of NCLP. Under the Scheme, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health-care etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic districts for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour, beginning with children working in hazardous occuptions.

EPF arrears of textile mills workers

291. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge arrears of payment of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) dues remain to be paid to former workers of textile-mills closed down years back;

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of such dues, specifically with respect to closed textile mills of Solapur Division, such as Laxmi Vishnu Textile Mills, indicating the EPF arrears cleared since their closure; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite clearance of EPF dues of former textile workers, particularly those of Laxmi Vishnu Textile Mills, Solapur, and the reasons for such unusual, inhuman and anti-labour delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A list of defaulting textile mills (region-wise as in September 2002) which are in arrears of Rs. 10 lakhs and above is given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). A list of closed textiles mills of Solapur area duly indicating the default position in respect of them is furnished in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below). M/s. Laxmi Vishnu textile Mills (Solapur) is in default to the tune of Rs. 7.99 crore which is closed since April 1995. Revenue Recovery Certificate has been issued against the establishment. Show cause notices have also been given to all the Directors of the Company. The movable property of the Mill has also been attached. Prosecution sanction under Section 14 of the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is also being initiated. The Debt Recovery Tribunal has appointed a Receiver in connection with the suit filed by the Bankers and discussions are on with the Receiver for recovery of the Employees Provident Fund dues. Most of the textile mills, espeicially those belonging of the NTC, are sick and registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. These establishments are reporting compliance as per the scheme sanctioned by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, wherever such scheme has been sanctioned. In all these cases all possible actions under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are initiated to recover the dues.

Statement-I

List of defaulting textile mills, which are in arrears of Rs. 10 lakh and above

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Region	Number of establishment in default	Amount in default
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	567.10
2.	Bihar	3	142.04

1	2	3	4
3.	Chhattisgarh	13	173.98
4.	Delhi	0	0.00
5.	Goa	0	0.00
6.	Gujarat	72	1570.49
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	18.61
8.	Haryana	13	126.10
9.	Jharkhand	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	20	1494.08
11.	Kerala	2	731.94
12.	Maharashtra	83	3834.86
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5	360.24
14.	North East Region	2	9.16
15.	Orissa	3	12.15
16.	Punjab	12	88.83
17.	Rajasthan	10	87.29
18.	Tamil Nadu	69	2414.79
19.	Uttaranchal	3	296.05
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2	425.20
21.	West Bengal	11	4046.81
	TOTAL	337	16399.72

Statement-II

List of closed textiles mills of Solapur area which are in arrears of EPF dues

Code No.	Name of the Establishment	Amount of Default (Rs. in lacs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
MH/345	M/s Lokmanya Mills, Barshi District, Solapur	3.14	Estt. under closure. Prosecution cases dismissed and appeal being filed before High Court.
MH/347	M/s Solapur Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Solapur	41.38	Estt. under closure since 1964. Claims pending with Official Liquidator.
MH/32117	M/s Prabhavati Spg. Mills, Solapur	1.22	Temporary Closure. Sick Establishment registered with Board for Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR).
MH/348	M/s Vishnu Laxmi Textile Mills	799.50	Estt. under closure. Movable property of the mill has been attached and prosecution action u/s 14 is being initiated.
MH/462	M/s Rajan Textile Mills, Barshi Distt. Solapur	0.75	Estt. under closure. The claim filed with Official Liquidator, appointed by High Court, Mumbai.
MH/11482	M/s Solapur Sahkari Vinkar Soot Girni Niyamit, Alakot Road, Solapur	21.89	Temporary Closure. Recovery Certificates issued.

1	2	3	4
MH/12644	M/s Yashwant Sahkari Soot Girni Niyamit, Solapur	34.72	Temporary Closure Recovery Certificates issued.

Funds for development of NER

292. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned for the North Eastern Region for development of the region during the Tenth Five Year Plan period in comparison to the Ninth Five Year Plan, head-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and actually utilized during the Ninth Plan for development of the region; and

(c) what are the reasons for not utilizing cent per cent funds granted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Plan Funds sanctioned for the states of North Eastern Region (including Sikkim) during the Tenth Five Year Plan in comparison to Ninth Five Year Plan and funds actually utilized during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Head-wise are given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). Outlay and Expenditure of NEC for the Ninth Five Year Plan and Tenth Five Year Plan for the development of the region is given in enclosed Statement-II (*See* below). Besides the Plan funds utilized by the States of the North Eastern Region and by the NEC, funds to the tune of Rs. 1346.72 crores were also released under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) for various development projects in the Region during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) The inability of the States to mobilise adequate resources is the main reason for not utilizing cent per cent funds granted by the Government.